Amendments to the Specification:

On page 4, please replace the second paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

--**Figure 2:** Sequence of J14 Peptide (SEQ ID NOS:5-15)--

On page 15, please replace the first paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

--In one preferred embodiment of the present invention, the antigenic peptide comprises an amino acid sequence from an M protein of *S. pyogenes*. There are a number of different sero types of M protein. Preferably, the antigenic peptide has an amino acid sequence of a fragment of the more prevalent serotypes. The vaccine composition can be selected as appropriate depending on the prevalence of particular sero types in the local area where the population is to be immunised. In one aspect, the peptide antigen is derived from M1 or M3 *S. pyogenes* serotypes. Although the sequence of M proteins varies between different strains, the M proteins have a generally conserved region. Figure 1 sets out a diagrammatic representation of *S. pyogenes* M protein. Preferably, an antigenic peptide for use in accordance with the present invention has an amino acid sequence identical to or derived from a portion of the carboxy terminus conserved region of M proteins. Preferably, the antigenic peptide will demonstrate cross-reactivity between different *S. pyogenes* serotypes. A particularly preferred sequence in accordance with the present invention comprises the antigen ASREAKKQVEKALE (SEQ ID NO:1).--

On page 15, please the second paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

--The antigenic peptide may be flanked by peptide sequences, for example, in the case of helical antigens derived from the carboxyl terminus of M proteins, to maintain the helical conformation of the antigen in the vaccine composition. The flanking sequences may be derived from the same M protein as the antigen, other M proteins or other proteins have a helical structural. Alternatively suitable flanking peptide sequences can be designed to maintain the helical conformation of the antigen. An example of a peptide having suitable flanking sequences has the sequence KQAEDKVKASREAKKQVEKALEQLEDKVK (SEQ ID NO:2)--.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 15-16 of the specification with the following amended paragraph:

--A vaccine composition in accordance with the present invention may incorporate more than one peptide antigenic sequence. In particular, it may be desirable to incorporate more than one *S. pyogenes* peptide antigens having sequences of fragments of more than one M protein, each optionally provided with flanking sequences as described above. Other suitable *S. pyogenes* antigens may also be incorporated into a vaccine according to the present invention. Such antigenic peptides may be derived from MtsA or protein H and may be used in place of or in addition to the antigenic peptides having sequences derived from M proteins. MtsA has been shown to be present in a number of *S. pyogenes* strains, and demonstrates high amino acid identity between strains. Preferably, an antigenic peptide has the sequence of a portion of the N-terminal region of MtsA and more preferably is EIN19, EINTEEEGTPDQISSLIEK (SEQ ID NO:3)--.

On page 16, please replace the first full paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

--Protein H is an M-like protein derived from the strain AP1. An antigenic sequence derived from protein H is preferably, for example, APP as described in more detail in PCT/GB99/01104. More preferably the peptide is KQL30 having the sequence KQLEDRVQQLETEKQISEASRKSAEDKVKQ (SEQ ID NO:4). Suitable antigenic determinants of M proteins are described in more detail in WO 96/11944. MtsA is described in more detail in PCT/GB99/04445.--

On page 21, please replace the second paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

--The sequence of the J14 peptide is as follows:

KQAEDKVK**ASREAKKQVEKALE**QLEDKVK (SEQ ID NO:2)--